

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: :  
Takafumi KIKUCHI et al. :  
  
Serial No. : Art Unit:  
  
Filed: concurrently herewith : Examiner:  
  
For: DATA PROCESSING : Atty Docket: 0121/0035  
APPARATUS AND DATA  
PROCESSING METHOD :  
:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Before examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

Cancel claims 21 and 22.  
Add new claims 23 and 24.